

The illustration depicts a serene night scene at a riverbank. On the left, a large brown hippopotamus stands in the grass, looking up towards the sky. In the foreground, several beavers are gathered; one is on a rock, another is on the grass, and two others are near the water's edge. A small otter stands on the grass to the left of the beavers. In the middle ground, a pink dolphin is partially submerged in the water, its head and dorsal fin visible. The background features a dark blue sky with a full moon, stars, and silhouettes of trees and clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and nocturnal.

# River Beds

**Sleeping in the World's Rivers**

By Gail Langer Karwoski

Illustrated by Connie McLennan

# River Beds

Sleeping in the World's Rivers

This sequel to the award-winning *Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean* (Learning Magazine's 2007 Teachers' Choice Award & 2005 Mom's Choice) takes readers on an around-the-world boat ride to learn how mammals sleep in or around ten major rivers of the world on all continents except Antarctica. Row down the Mississippi and watch two river otters slip into a hollow tree or look to the bank of the Brisbane River as a platypus pops into a hole and disappears into a narrow tunnel. Told in a soothing style, this book serves as a bedtime/naptime story for younger children or an animal geography book for older children. Adults may learn something, too!

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. Whether read at home or in a classroom, we encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives. Free online resources and support at [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book:
  - ° Animal adaptation matching activity
    - Asian Short-Clawed Otter
    - Beaver
    - Boto Dolphin
    - Capybara
    - Hippopotamus
    - Indus River Dolphin
    - Mink
    - Platypus
    - River Otter
    - Water Vole
  - ° River Map Activities
- Teaching Activities:
  - Reading Questions
  - Math
  - Language Arts
  - Geography
  - Science
  - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State Standards (searchable database)
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Thanks to the twelve wonderful animal experts listed on the dedication page for verifying the information in this book.



Look for the award-winning prequel, *Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*, to learn how marine mammals—animals that breathe air like us—sleep in the ocean.

**Gail Langer Karwoski** is an award-winning children's author. In addition to *Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*, (Mom's Choice Best Children's Picture Book Author for 2005 and Learning Magazine's 2007 Teachers' Choice Award), and *River Beds: Sleeping in the World's Rivers*, Gail has written *Julie the Rockhound* for Arbordale as well as several other books for young readers. Gail and her husband live in Georgia.

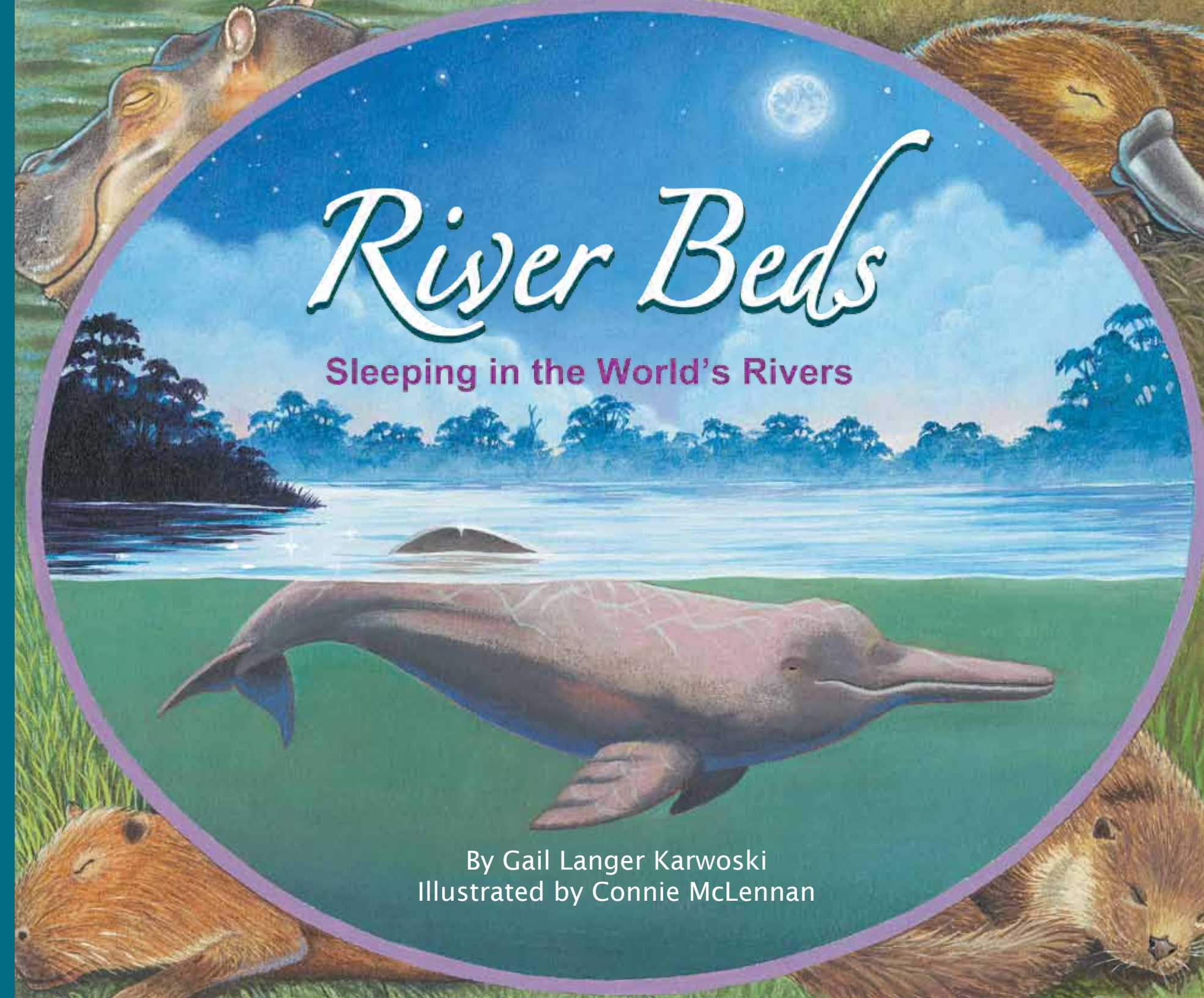
**Connie McLennan** has been a successful freelance artist for over 25 years since attending Academy of Art College in San Francisco. In addition to illustrating *Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*; *River Beds: Sleeping in the World's Rivers*; *The Rainforest Grew All Around*; *Mother Osprey: Nursery Rhymes for Buoys & Gulls*; and *Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud* for Arbordale, she also illustrated *The Wishing Tree* and *Domitila*. Connie and her family live in northern California.



Gail Langer Karwoski



Connie McLennan



By Gail Langer Karwoski  
Illustrated by Connie McLennan

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Interest grade level: P-4.

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To Laurence Pringle: mentor, inspiration, and friend—GK  
To Jessica—CM

Thanks to all the many scientists and educators from zoos, aquariums, conservation, and research organizations for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book:

River Otters: Kelly Reno, River Otter Animal Behaviorist at the SC Aquarium, and Rico Walder, Assistant Curator of Forests, Tennessee Aquarium

Beavers: Kathryn Dudeck, Wildlife Director at Chattahoochee Nature Center

Boto (Amazon) Dolphins: Tamara Mcguire, PhD, Amazon Researcher with Virtual Explorers

Indus River Dolphin & Boto Dolphin: Frazer McGilvray, Senior Manager at Conservation International

Capybaras: Rachael Macy, Zoological Manager/Carnivores at the St. Louis Zoo

Water Voles: Rob Strachan, of The Mammal Society (UK)

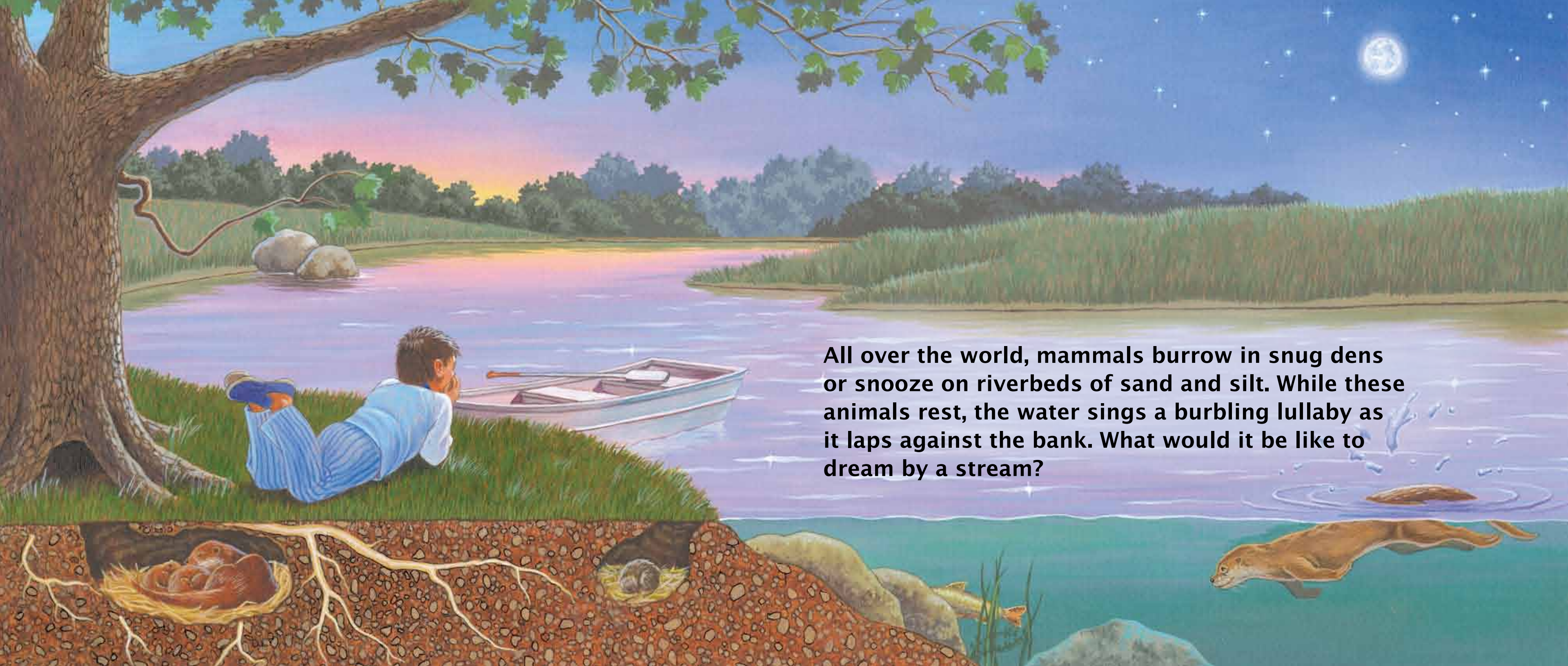
Mink: George Shurvington, Wildlife Biologist, and Karen Armstrong, Conservation Education Consultant at the Missouri Department of Conservation

Asian Short-Clawed Otter: Lisa Smith, Curator of Large Mammals at Zoo Atlanta

Hippos: Loran Wlodarski, Science Writer, SeaWorld Orlando

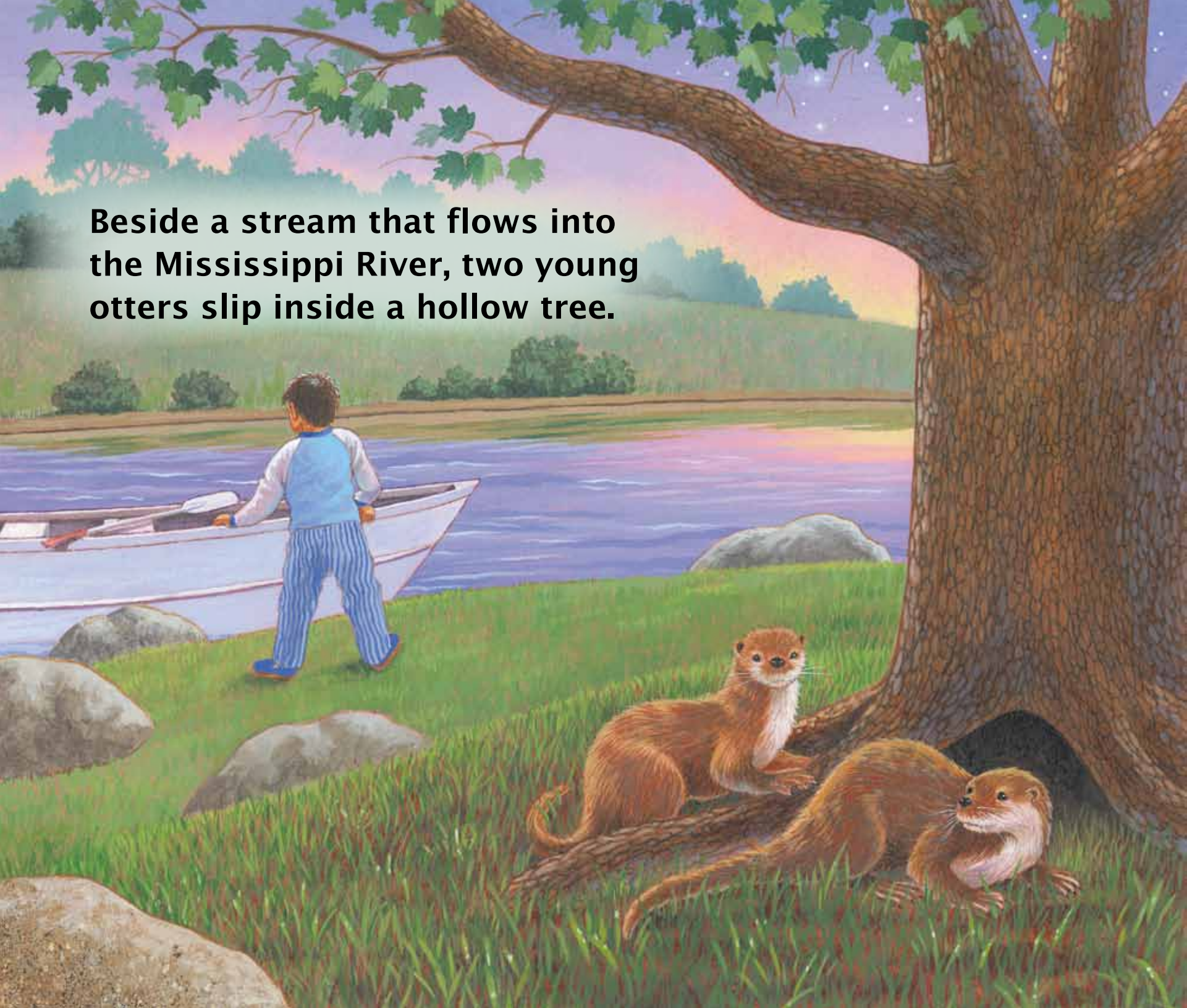
Platypus: Geoff Williams, Australian Platypus Conservancy





**All over the world, mammals burrow in snug dens or snooze on riverbeds of sand and silt. While these animals rest, the water sings a burbling lullaby as it laps against the bank. What would it be like to dream by a stream?**

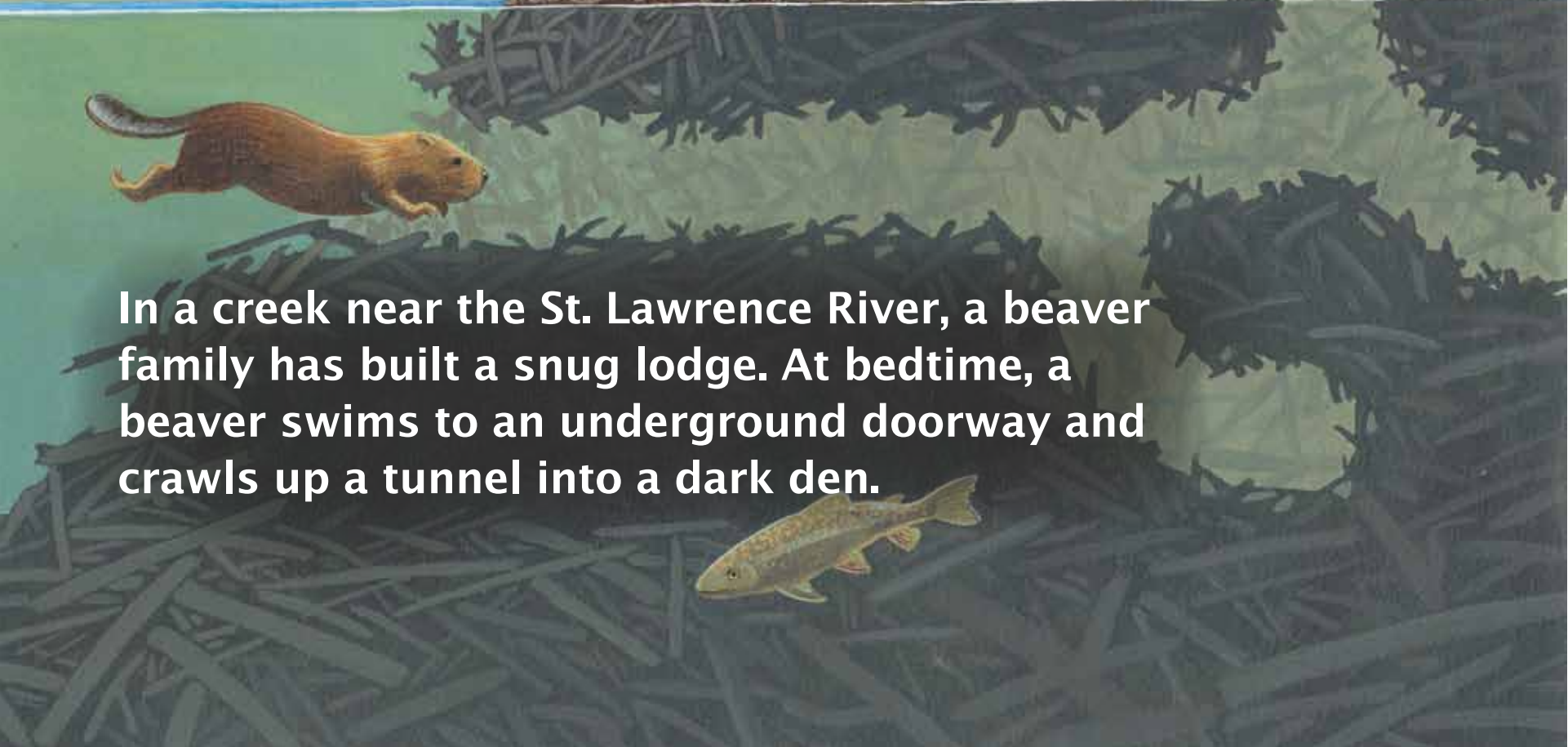
**Beside a stream that flows into the Mississippi River, two young otters slip inside a hollow tree.**



**With the help of their mother, the youngsters rub and nuzzle until their fur is dry and clean. One young otter pokes the other and starts a game of chase. They play until at last they're tuckered out. Then they all lump up together for a long, leisurely snooze.**



**After grooming every droplet of water off its dense coat, the beaver hunkers down.**



**In a creek near the St. Lawrence River, a beaver family has built a snug lodge. At bedtime, a beaver swims to an underground doorway and crawls up a tunnel into a dark den.**



**It tucks its head between its hind legs and hugs front paws to its chest. In a dry furry heap, the beaver falls sound asleep.**

# For Creative Minds

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## Adaptation Matching Activity

All of the animals in this book are mammals, like us. Mammals are usually born alive and their babies drink milk from their mothers. Mammals have hair or fur, breathe air, and are warm blooded. All animals have behavioral or physical traits that help them adapt to their environment. Match the adaptations and descriptions to the animal:



1.

### a. Asian short-clawed otter:

The smallest of all otters, they have webbed paws with short, blunt claws used for swimming and grabbing prey. They use about 12 different calls to communicate with one another.



2.

### b. Platypus:

The duck-like bill is both a nose and a mouth and is packed with thousands of sensors to help find food. Their front feet are webbed like a duck's and their toes stretch into "paddles."



3.

### c. Boto dolphin:

Their long beaks have sharp teeth to grab and hold onto fish and bristly hairs to "touch" things. They can turn their necks so they can look 90 degrees in any direction. These animals are endangered.



4.

### d. Capybara:

These large rodents have eyes and ears close to the top of their heads so they can see and hear while swimming. They have four toes and some webbing on their front feet.

### e. Hippopotamus:

These large animals have their eyes, ears, and nostrils high on their heads so they can stay in the water most of the day. Their pink sweat helps to protect their skin—kind of like a sunscreen!

### f. Indus River dolphin:

Almost blind, these animals don't use their eyes to see in the dark river water, but they use a special type of hearing called echolocation. These animals are endangered and it is estimated that there are less than 1000 left.

### g. Mink:

Their thick, water-repellant fur keeps them warm in cold weather. They use their partly-webbed feet to hunt underwater prey. They are about the size of a house cat.

### h. Beaver:

They use their long, thick tails to help steer in the water and to slap the water to warn others of danger. Tails can grow to 10 - 16 inches long and can be 5 - 6 inches wide.

### i. River otter:

Their webbed feet with claws help them to swim and to climb onto land. Their very thick fur to keeps them warm in cold water. They have as many hairs in a single square inch as most people have on their whole heads!

### j. Water vole:

Sometimes confused with brown rats, these animals live on river banks and are very territorial. They'll mark the outside of their territory by urinating.

5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



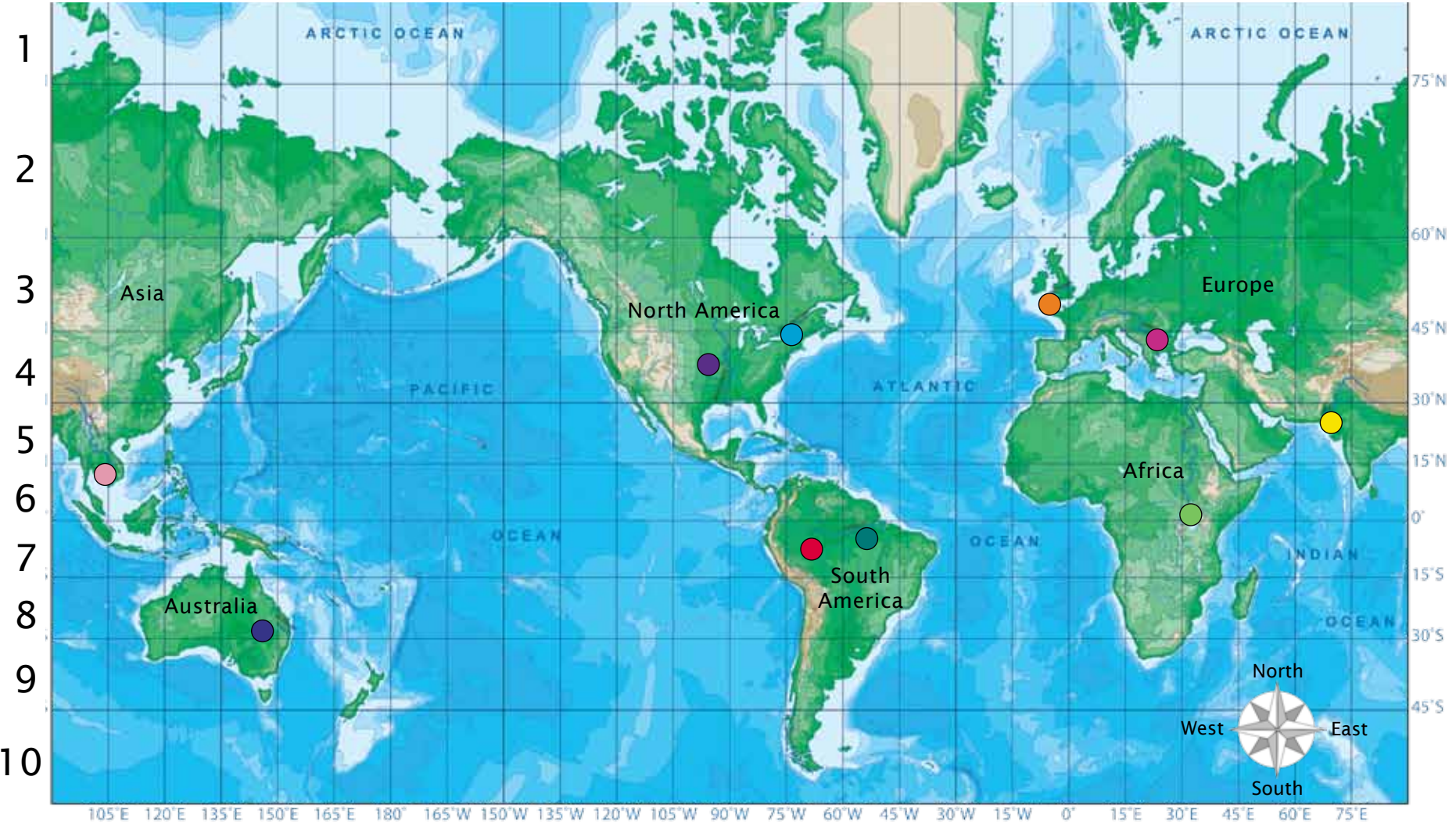
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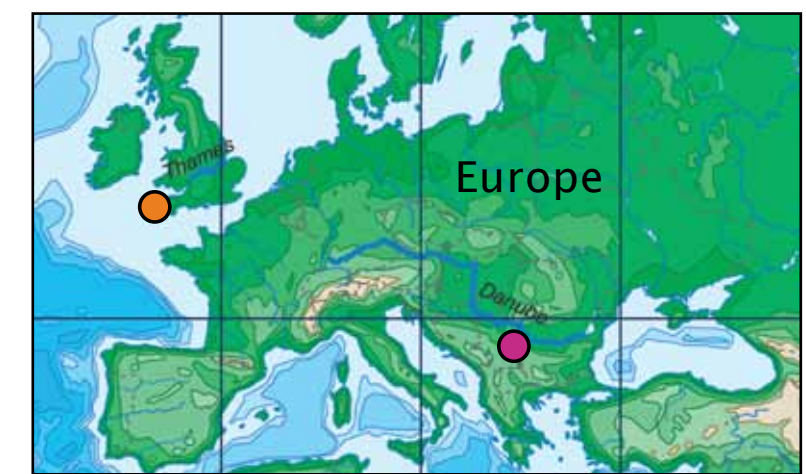
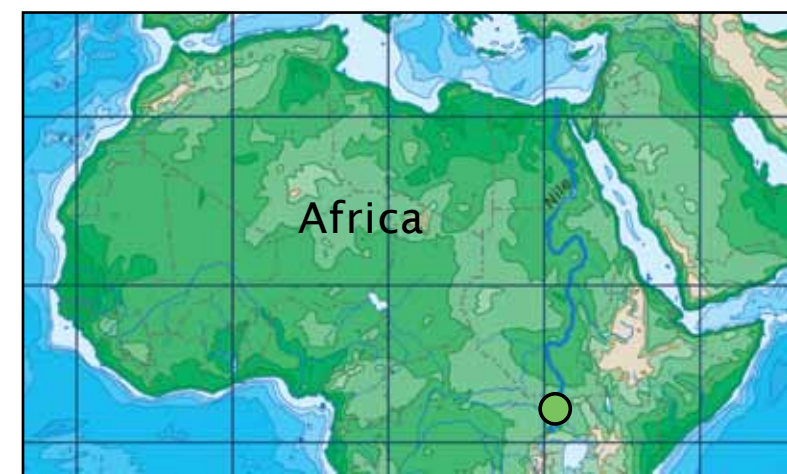
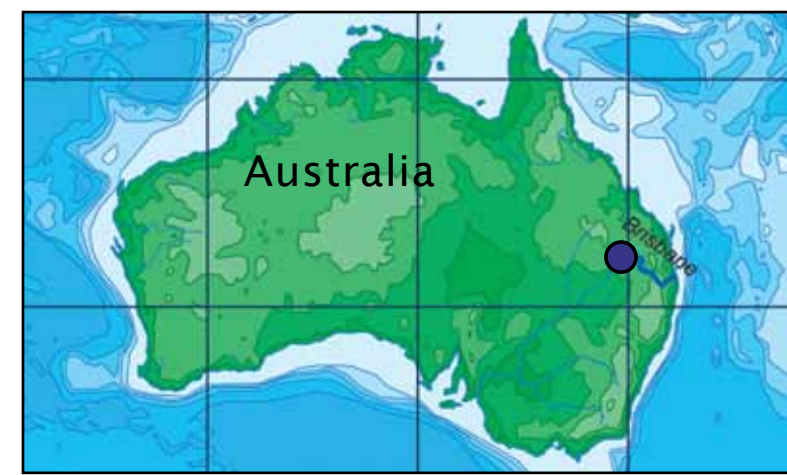
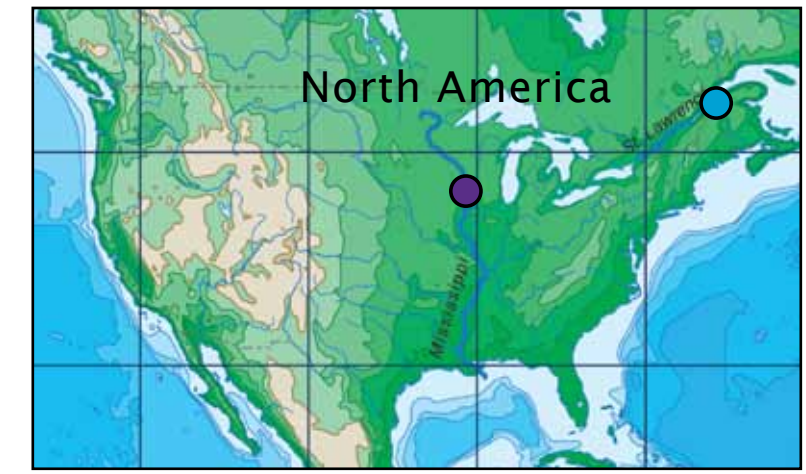
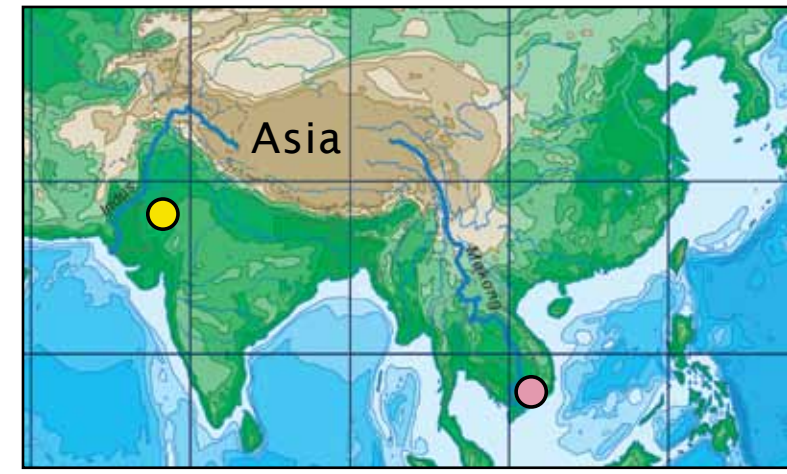
# River Map Activity



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X



Water vole Beaver Mink Hippopotamus River otter





## Find the animals and their rivers on the map

**For young children:** Each animal has a colored rectangle around it that matches a similarly-colored dot on the map.

- Match the colors to find the river where each animal lives.
- On what continent are the rivers and animals found?
- On what continent do you live?
- What animal(s) in the book live(s) on the same continent as you do?
- Can you point to where you live on the map?



**For older children:** Use the coordinate grids (top and left of the map) or the lines of latitude (on the right) and longitude (on the bottom) to answer the questions below. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.

1. What animal is found in grid (R,3)?
2. Which other animal is found in Europe?
3. Which animal is found in Australia and at what grid coordinates?
4. Which South American animals live close to the equator (latitude 0°).
5. What animal is found in grid (U,6)?
6. The dot for the beaver is on what line of latitude?
7. What animal is found in grid (L,4)?

Answers: 1. water vole, 2. mink, 3. platypus at (D,8) or approximately 30° S, 150° E; 4. boto dolphin and capybara, 5. hippopotamus, 6. 45° N, 7. river otter.



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